

## **Construction Industry Communication #051**

**From: Amit Ghosh, Chief Building Official**

**Re: Special Inspections – Fire-Resistance-Rated Assemblies**

**Date: November 13, 2017**

**Requirements:** The Ohio Building Code authorizes the Chief Building Official to allow or require the use of special inspections for systems to be installed with additional requirements not contained in the Ohio Building Code.

**Background:** Since 2015 the City of Columbus Department of Building and Zoning Services (BZS) has allowed the use of special inspectors to perform fire-resistance-rated assembly (FRA) inspections. These special inspections began with non-combustible buildings of Type I and Type II construction. The FRA special inspections were eventually allowed in wood framed buildings of Type III and Type V construction.

However, constructing fire-resistance-rated assemblies in buildings of wood framed construction presents more complex and unusual conditions than buildings of concrete and steel. These conditions have proven to be more difficult than anticipated and have resulted in incomplete or incorrectly installed assemblies. Examples of some such conditions include incomplete fire-resistance-rated assemblies through concealed spaces, work not meeting tested assemblies, assemblies used other than shown on the approved documents, and penetrations through assemblies not completed. Situations such as these lead to extensive reworking of the assemblies with additional time needed to complete projects and added expense to the customers.

**Memorandum:** Effective immediately, inspections of fire-resistance-rated assembly in buildings of wood frame construction may only be performed by BZS staff. In buildings of non-combustible construction, fire-resistance-rated assemblies may continue to be inspected by the special inspection agencies but must be identified on the “Statement of Special Inspections” form.

For additional information, please call 614-645-6371 or visit our website at [www.columbus.gov/bzs](http://www.columbus.gov/bzs).